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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of Darby, et al.

Serial No.: 09/942,624

Art Unit: 2632

Filed: August 31, 2001

Examiner: D. Crosland

Title: A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INTERCONNECTED NETWORKS HAVING A LINEAR TOPOLOGY, ESPECIALLY RAILWAYS

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RESPONSE

RECEIVED

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUN 17 2003
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

This Response is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated March 21, 2003.

Remarks

Claims 22, 23, 26-35 and 37-50 and 52-57 are rejected as anticipated by Stevens.

Each of the Independent Claims 22, 28, 29, 32 and 38 and 41 recites, inter alia, the limitation that the order of the railcars is determined based on the difference in time between the receipt of a signal transmitted from the immediately preceding railcar and a pneumatic pulse. The Office Action improperly states that "the issue is whether or not the prior art reference to Stevens et al **suggests** measuring the time between the receipt of the last RF transmission from a preceding railcar and the receipt of the pressure pulse. As the Office is clearly aware, in order to serve as the basis for an anticipation rejection, the